

## NEWS

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

## PLA in Boston

**By Andrea Thorpe, President, NHLA**

I love conferences. I get a chance to meet other librarians and learn other ways of doing things, share funny stories, talk about our profession and if I am lucky I get to go dancing. I attend NHLA and NELA every year, but my favorite conference is the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference held every other year in different large cities around the country. At PLA I hear incredible speakers like Anna Quindlin and Molly Ivins. I meet authors and illustrators in programs and at signings. I hear about innovative programs from working librarians. I see cutting edge technology. PLA always refreshes my spirit and I come back to New Hampshire enthusiastic about providing the best public library service to the people of my community. My trustees understand the value of an enthusiastic and knowledgeable director and each time ask the Friends of the Library to underwrite my trip. The library staff expects that the first staff meeting after my return from a PLA conference will be full of new ideas and lots of vendor freebies. To see what was available at the conference held in Seattle this past February, go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plaevents/nationalconf/planationalconference.htm>.

In March 20-25, 2006, PLA will come to Boston! The NHLA Executive Board has discussed urging our members to attend PLA in lieu of the 2006 spring conference. PLA is a national conference drawing national speakers, major authors and hundreds of vendors. Vendors, who pay for our conference, want to be where the crowds are. Our local conference can't compete. The NHLA executive board is talking with other state associations and NELA about the impact PLA will have on our conference revenues and is negotiating with PLA for conference time or reduced registration fees. (Massachusetts has decided not to hold there conference). These talks are exploratory and in the very early stages so I can't promise anything other than the executive board will work on these issues.

The NHLA Executive Board has also talked about chartering a bus to pick up NHLA members in Concord or Manchester and take them right to the convention center and return them to their cars later that evening. This would eliminate the expense and hassle of driving into and parking in Boston. There may be many of us who have relatives near the MBTA with whom we could stay. But no matter how you get there, PLA is not to be missed.

PLA registration is very reasonable, but if all you can afford is the \$25.00 to get an Exhibitors Hall pass you can gain a lot. In Seattle there were 800 library vendors filling two exhibition halls. I talked to vendors about new technology, reading programs, software, and informational programs from organizations like US Census Bureau or Medline. I got to sit on the furniture and try out new products. This year, I returned with a large suitcase full of free stuff for my library – books, t-shirts, coffee mugs, pens, toys. I brought back lots of summer reading program prizes from vendors at PLA.

So, talk to your trustees, put the PLA attendance in your 2006 budget and join us in Boston.

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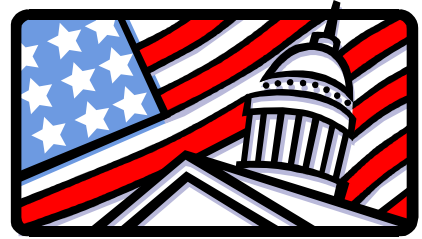
**\*President—Andrea Thorpe \* Past President—Rob Sargent \* Vice President—Susanne Collins \*Secretary—Jennifer Bone  
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## 2004 Library Legislative Day

By Andrea Thorpe, President, NHLA

On May 3 and 4, State Librarian, Michael York, Lillian Edelman from the NHLTA and I went to Washington, D.C. to lobby for New Hampshire Libraries. Monday was spent in briefings with the ALA Washington Office going over legislation affecting libraries such as E-rate, LSTA funding and the USA PATRIOT Act. We also lunched with the aides knowledgeable about libraries from the offices Senator Sununu and Senator Gregg.

One of the things that came out of the ALA Washington Office briefings is that they need to know how many libraries have applied for the e-rate and if they haven't why. Did you not apply because the process was too cumbersome? Or, because it was too time consuming? Or, was it because you were opposed to filtering? Write, e-mail or call the Washington Office and tell them about your experience with the e-rate process. Their contact information is: 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 403, Washington, DC 20004, **Phone** : 202-628-8410, **Fax** : 202-628-8419, **Email**: [alawash@alawash.org](mailto:alawash@alawash.org).



On Tuesday, we met with the staffs of our congressional delegation. We were also able to speak briefly with Senator Sununu and Representative Bradley. I want to urge you to contact your representatives in Washington. All of them listen. They may not agree, but they do listen. Thank them for their past support in passing the reauthorization of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and urge them to fully fund LSTA. That LSTA money directly affects your library. It brings the van to your door, the NHU-PAC to your library or home and provides those databases that are so important to your reference service.



### NHLA NEWS

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#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Rebecca Clerkin, NHCTC/Stratham

Send articles, announcements and dates of upcoming events to:

Rebecca Clerkin  
NH Community Technical College  
277 Portsmouth Avenue  
Stratham, NH 03885  
[rclerkin@nhctc.edu](mailto:rclerkin@nhctc.edu)

## NELA Conference in Manchester September 2004

By Leslie Gaudreau, NELA Representative

NELA returns to the Center of New Hampshire September 26-28 this year offering programs on everything From youth services and information technology to support staff and the economic value of public libraries. The full program schedule will be mailed to members and be available on the Web site ([www.nelib.org](http://www.nelib.org)) in July. In addition to the NELA games, the states will be participating in an auction to raise money to support the New England Library Leadership Symposium. We'll be looking for auction items so if you have an idea or a contact for an item, please contact Lesley Gaudreau at the Wiggin Memorial Library in Stratham ([director@wigginml.org](mailto:director@wigginml.org)). Think about getting a team together to create a themed basket like the ones at the last NHLA auction – the possibilities are endless! Remember, the coveted NELA snail hangs in the balance. For more information about NELA or the conference, please contact Lesley.

## Quebec-New Hampshire Cultural Exchange

By Andrea Thorpe, President, NHLA

Did you know that there is an agreement on cultural cooperation between the government of Quebec and the State of New Hampshire? I learned this when I was asked to join the cultural exchange mission to Montreal this past May. Sixteen people representing different cultural institutions from arts and historic resources to museums and libraries. Three librarians were par of this delegation State Librarian, Michael York, Media Director for the Hooksett school District and Chair of the Library Committee of the Franco-American Centre, Mary Jean Chaput, and president of NHLA, me.

The purpose of the mission was “to build new partnerships and alliances” and “to explore cultural and heritage tourism with their counterparts”. The exchange was hosted by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and was wonderfully organized by Madame Fabienne Bilodea.

The members of the exchange toured Montreal with Mr. Dinu Bumbaru of Heritage Montréal, attended an afternoon roundtable on Cultural tourism, a morning session on Quebec-New Hampshire heritage, history and genealogy and reception for the naming of the National Archives building. We enjoyed an elegant working lunch with our Quebec counterparts. I was seated between the president of the Quebec Library Association and the Director of the Montreal Libraries.

The librarians toured the offices of SDM the cataloger of 95% of French language materials published. They not only provide cataloging but also book processing. SDM is sort of a combination of OCLC and our processing jobbers. We also met with Ms. Helen Roussel of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec who showed us the outside of the new Grande bibliothèque du Québec, which will open next spring, and gave us a tour of the present national library as well as introducing us to Ms. Lise Bissonnette, CEO of Bibliothèque nationale du Québec. Then Ms. Louise Labory, the director of the Bibliothèque de Montréal gave us a tour of Montreal’s Central Library.

I learned many things. New Hampshire and Québec share a rich heritage. I never realized that a third of New Hampshire is of French-Canadian descent. Quebec cultural tourism is flourishing. They have found that cultural tourists stay longer and spend more money. Cultural tourists may visit museums, heritage parks or libraries this is true for genealogists in particular. For many cultural tourists, libraries are a first stop in our communities for genealogical and local historical information. This puts libraries in an important position in bringing the tourist dollars to their communities. Something we need to communicate to our boards of trustees and selectmen.

I want to thank NHLA for sending me and Public Service of New Hampshire, the American Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission, Jefferson Pilot Financial and The International Trade Resource Center for sponsoring the mission.

## Answers Here and Now

**By Dianne Hathaway, Director Goffstown Public Library**

GMILCS, Inc. a local consortium of twelve public and academic libraries has contracted with **24/7 Reference** to provide online and after-hours reference service to its thousands of clients. The new service, called “Answers Here and Now,” will allow library patrons to ask questions and get answers, in real time, on the Internet, from a live reference librarian by clicking on the blue and yellow icon from the library’s home page. This means that a library patron with access to the Internet can link to a real librarian no matter what day of the week or time of day.

Beginning October 25<sup>th</sup> users can link to the service at [www.gmilcs.org](http://www.gmilcs.org) or through any member library. GMILCS, Inc. libraries will be scheduling their librarians to staff the service for ten hours a week. For the remainder of the time librarians from all over the country will be putting their time in to work for the service as well. In addition, 24/7 Reference employs professional librarians who cover the hours no one else has scheduled, such as overnight and early morning hours across different time zones.

Not only can people ask questions of a reference librarian on duty and get answers, but they can get a virtual tour of an online database that can help them with their research or an escort to demonstrate a search tool like Google or AltaVista. If a librarian is unable to answer a question because it is really a local question, it is referred to another librarian in the patron’s own area. For years librarians have been using the Internet as a reference tool and now that service will be extended remotely to patrons in their own homes at any time.

The libraries that make up GMILCS, Inc. are the Manchester City Library and the West Community branch, Southern New Hampshire University, the New Hampshire Art Institute, Amherst Town Library, Bedford Public Library, Derry Public Library, Goffstown Public Library, Hooksett Public Library, Merrimack Public Library, New England College, the Wadleigh Library in Milford, and the Kelley Library in Salem. Patrons from these service areas will be able to access the service through their home library’s web site. GMILCS, Inc.’s presence in southern New Hampshire gives one quarter of the state’s residents access to this valuable, cutting edge service.

Some of the libraries and consortiums across the country that are members of 24/7 Reference include the California State Universities, the colleges and universities in Utah, the Boston Library Consortium, the public libraries in California, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts and many others. Funding for this service was been made possible by a Rebecca Lee Spitz Library Grant from the Saul O. Sidore Memorial Foundation.

## Get Involved ...

The Membership Committee is seeking members for the committee. Much of the work is maintaining the membership database and the NHLA-L list. We also offer an orientation program at the spring conference for new members. Please contact Marilyn Borgendale [mborg@gmilcs.org](mailto:mborg@gmilcs.org) or 485-4286 if you might be interested.



# THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOU !

Submit your NHLA Newsletter articles to:

Rebecca Clerkin  
NH Community Technical College Library  
277 Portsmouth Avenue  
Stratham, NH 03885

[rclerkin@nhctc.edu](mailto:rclerkin@nhctc.edu)

## FUTURE PRINT ISSUES OF THE NHLA NEWS ...

This year's Winter and Summer issues of the NHLA News will be the last to be mailed out in print. After this year, all future issues will be electronic only. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter in a print format, you need to respond. Please call or email Rebecca Clerkin at 772-1194 x342 or [rclerkin@nhctc.edu](mailto:rclerkin@nhctc.edu). You may also fill out the information below and mail it back. If you have already sent in your information, you do not need to send this in again.



Name .....

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Mail to: Rebecca Clerkin NHCTC Library 277 Portsmouth Ave. Stratham, NH 03885

## **Improve Your Students' Research Skills with This Dynamic Training Experience for Teachers and Media Specialists**

**Epping, NH** – Active Learning Systems, LLC, a company that created the Independent Investigation Method (IIM) to eliminate plagiarism and support teachers in designing well-organized research units, is offering a “No More Plagiarism! 7 Easy Steps to Successful Research Projects” workshop in November. Available dates include Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 3:30PM in Boston, MA or Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 – 3:30PM in Burlington, VT.

This comprehensive one day action workshop is designed with specific strategies for teachers of grades 3 -8. Each step of the IIM model is explained in detail with steps for both the teacher and the students. Participants will learn a variety of techniques to improve student research strategies: note taking without plagiarizing, reading in the content areas, analyzing and synthesizing information, asking higher level questions, and applying many state-tested language arts skills. Participants will also receive the IIM Teacher Manual which includes all materials necessary to implement the program.

Active Learning Systems created the Independent Investigation Method to take the fear and mystery out of a research assignment, and make research a dynamic and exciting part of students' school experience. Co-founded in 1992 by Virginia Morse and Cindy Nottage, Active Learning Systems now trains teachers how to teach the research process and its related skills to their students. Clients have been trained throughout the United States, including New York City, Fairfax County, VA, Sacramento, CA, Wakefield, MA, Dover, NH, Wells, ME, Orleans Central, VT, etc.

To sign up, contact Kim at 1-800-644-5059 or download the registration form at [www.activelearningsystems.com](http://www.activelearningsystems.com).

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